GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:220
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2005
TASK FORCE ON CRIME IN TRAINS STATIONS
Yadav Shri Akhilesh;Yadav Shri Sita Ram

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways has set up any task force to curb the increasing crime and incidents of violence in trains and at railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the area of its jurisdiction;

(c) whether the railways has identified the most sensitive crime/violence prone areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken / to be taken in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.220 BY SHRI SITA RAM YADAV AND SHRI AKHILESH YADAV TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 17.3.2005 REGARDING TASK FORCE ON CRIME IN TRAINS / STATIONS.

(a) & (b): No, Sir. According to Entry No.2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and village Police), is a State subject. Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the State Police. The State Police have a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Prevention and detection of crime is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments, and as such, Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways. However, to provide better security to the traveling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the RPF Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are being deployed to escort many trains and deployed in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF has also been empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as Alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticket less travel, unauthorized entry etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) amending the Railways Act w.e.f. July 2004. The objective was to ensure that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more man power and time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws of the land.

From July2004, Railway Protection Force has been providing daily, on an average 1,217 escort parties in co- ordination with the State Governments, in affected trains over the Indian Railways for which an average of 3,712 staff are deployed. In addition, 480 stations on an average are given additional security by Railway Protection Force with deployment of 2,705 personnel. The offenders apprehended by RPF staff are forwarded to the concerned Government Railway Police with detailed report regarding the offence for registration of cases and further legal action. The entire Railway system is thus covered by the Railway Protection Force and the State Police.

(c) & (d): Crime on the Railways, being fluid, particular trains or sections cannot be pin-pointed. However, the crime figures of 2003 and 2004 indicate that the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are affected by murder and attempt to murder in trains; the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are affected by murders and attempt to murders in the Railway premises. With regards to dacoity, the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam and West Bengal happen to be more affected. The States of Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are affected by robberies. As for the crimes of kidnapping and abduction, the States of Bihar and West Bengal are affected. The theft of passengers' belongings is most prominent in the States of Maharashtra, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi.

(e): The position in the sections, trains and stations affected by crime is periodically reviewed in the co- ordination meetings held by the officers of the Railways with the State Police. In these Meetings, the situation is reviewed and remedial measures taken accordingly. The deployment of staff is modified depending upon the situation and trains from time to time. Whenever there is a flare-

up of violent incidents in any section, all-out efforts are made in co-ordination with the State Police to control the situation, by actively assisting them with additional man power and other resources In addition to have better liaison, mobility and co-ordination in effectively supplementing the efforts of State Governments in controlling crime, the Railway Protection Force has been equipped with additional road vehicles; communication equipments and compact & effective weapons (5.56 mm INSAS rifles, carbines and pistols).